an educational rather than a fiscal value, and have not been made hitherto with a view of covering large denuded areas.

121. In the East Thána Division, in addition to the work of filling up blanks in closures by broad-casting and dibbling seed or pit planting, the lands acquired on the catchment area of the Tánsa Lake were again operated upon. It has been already remarked in paragraph 92 that fires devastated that area ; but from recent reports it appears that a large percentage of plants have shot up again, showing that they were deep rooted. Forest guards sowed 3,640 maunds of different kinds of seeds and transplanted a large number of seedlings procured from the surrounding forest over 871 acres.

To fill up bare places in the coupes of the West Thána Division, pit planting was chiefly resorted to with fair success and a considerable quantity of seed was scattered about the forests to aid natural reproduction. A small plantation occupying 3 acres was started at Rábále in the Sálsette Range, and the usual method of sowing and transplanting was adopted. The success of the plantations was not, however, assured, as a large number of the young plants died off ; the exception being in the case of some teak and ain transplants, which remained healthy throughout the hot weather, though their growth was necessarily slow.

122. In the Surat Division the results of the year's operations are said to be successful, especially in the small coupes of the Bulsár and Chikhli ranges. In Mándvi, however, owing to the majority of the plants on the area (177 acres) taken in hand in the previous year having died off, the same was replanted with teak and other valuable species ; new plantations covering 18 acres were created in the Wareth Reserve.

123. Artificial as well as natural reproduction has no chance in the forests of the Dángs so long as fires sweep over them year after year from end to end.

124. In the Panch Maháls Division 247 maunds of miscellaneous seeds were collected and sown by forest guards over 410 acres with very indifferent results. Mr. Fisher reports that "operations of this and past years show very poor results,—in fact, none from an economic point of view." The cause of failure appears to be that sufficient supervision has not been exercised in the past over the subordinates in this matter. The Divisional Forest Officer's attention has been drawn to this fact, and it is hoped that cultural operations will be better looked after in the years to come.

125. The area and cost of the foregoing operations in the several divisions were as under :—

No.	Division.	Area	Cost.	Remarks.
		Acres.	Rs. a. p.	
1	East Thána	5,129	.....	
2	West Thána	24,512	474 0 0	
3	Surat	1,380	466 0 0	
4	Panch Mahals	742	.....	
	Total ...	31,763	940 0 0	

(3). Early Thinnings.

126. This operation is of a very delicate nature and, unless intelligently performed, it ceases to be advantageous in the interest of the young stock. Such work, therefore, cannot be entrusted to the subordinates, and has not been undertaken hitherto by Divisional Forest Officers personally, owing to the extent of their charges and the minute attention they are required to pay to details in the general working of the forests.

(4). Other operations for the improvement of the growing stock.

127. Forest guards in all the divisions of this Circle, with the exception